



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Tule Lake Unit,
World War II
Valor in the Pacific
National Monument

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Tule Lake Unit, WWII Valor in the Pacific National Monument News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NPS Continues Tule Lake Unit Planning Effort with Public Meetings

TULELAKE, California— The Tule Lake Unit, one of the newest National Park Service sites, is continuing its development by holding a series of meetings this summer to gather public ideas about the site. The Tule Lake Unit of World War II Valor in the Pacific National Monument was established in 2008 by President George W. Bush. The national monument preserves eight battle sites in the Pacific in Hawaii and Alaska. The ninth unit, the Tule Lake Unit, preserves and interprets the incarceration and segregation of people of Japanese ancestry during WWII. Two thirds of those incarcerated were US citizens.

Since the designation of the Tule Lake Unit, the National Park Service (NPS) has been working to establish the unit. This includes offering interpretive programs, assessing the conditions of 17 historic buildings, providing emergency stabilization of historic buildings, and preparing for a long term planning effort. There were a series of land transfers from the Bureau of Land Management and Bureau of Reclamation to the National Park Service to create the site, and the unit is to be co-managed with the US Fish and Wildlife Service. In 2012, the unit received its annual budget for the first time and formal oversight was given to Lava Beds National Monument. Early in 2013, the unit published its Five Year Strategic Plan. This plan provides immediate direction for establishing a foundation for operations and management while a long range plan is developed through extensive public involvement. The plan, called a general management plan (GMP), will identify the overall direction for future management of the Tule Lake Unit. GMPs are long-range, broad, conceptual plans, which answer the question, "What kind of place do we want this park unit to be?"

"The NPS is honored to be charged with telling and preserving such a challenging story for the American people. Public involvement in planning for the Tule Lake Unit will make the new unit a group effort. Working together to create this plan will help the story become more relevant to more

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people, so it will never be forgotten,” says Mike Reynolds, Superintendent of the Tule Lake Unit and Lava Beds National Monument.

There are two public meetings planned for the local area to receive public input on that question: Tuesday, June 18 at Tulelake High School at 6:00 pm and Wednesday, June 19 at Ross Ragland Cultural Center in Klamath Falls at 6:00 pm. These meetings give the public the opportunity to discuss what they would like to see considered in the GMP. There will be an opportunity to meet members of the NPS planning team, learn more about the GMP process, and discuss your ideas, thoughts, and concerns about the future of Tule Lake. Your ideas are important to the development of a successful plan.

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The Tule Lake Unit of World War II Valor in the Pacific National Monument, established in 2008, is a nationally significant site dedicated to telling the story of the cost of war on the home front and the lasting effects of the unjust incarceration of over 29,000 US citizens and long-term residents of Japanese ancestry at the Tule Lake Segregation Center.

For more information about visiting the Tule Lake Unit of World War II Valor in the Pacific National Monument, call 530-667-8113, email tule_superintendent@nps.gov, or go to www.nps.gov/tule.

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